Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for increasing the level of a therapeutic gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject

(a) a first viral vector ~~which comprises~~ comprising a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding said therapeutic gene product, wherein said therapeutic gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that ~~modulates~~ reduces uptake of said first viral vector by Kupffer cells ~~function in said subject~~, wherein said agent is a second viral vector that does not comprise said therapeutic nucleic acid; and

wherein said agent is administered prior to or concurrently with administration of said first viral vector.

Claims 2 - 33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method for increasing the level of a therapeutic gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject

(a) a viral vector comprising a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding said therapeutic gene product, wherein said therapeutic gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that ~~modulates~~ reduces uptake of said viral vector by Kupffer cells ~~function in said subject~~, wherein said agent is administered less than 1 hour prior to administering said viral vector.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method according to claim 34, wherein said agent is administered less than five minutes prior to administering said viral vector.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method for increasing the level of a therapeutic gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject

(a) a viral vector comprising a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding said therapeutic gene product, wherein said therapeutic gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that ~~modulates~~ reduces uptake of said viral vector by Kupffer cells ~~function in said subject~~, wherein said agent is administered concurrently with ~~the~~ said viral vector.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A method for increasing the level of a therapeutic gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject

(a) a viral vector comprising a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding said therapeutic gene product, wherein said therapeutic gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that ~~modulates~~ reduces uptake of said viral vector by Kupffer cells ~~function in said subject~~, wherein said agent is a particle sufficient for phagocytosis and has a diameter of about 10 nm to about 1000 nm; and

wherein said agent is administered prior to or concurrently with administration of said viral vector.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and/or second viral vector is an adenovirus vector.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 34-38, wherein said viral vector is an adenovirus vector.

Claim 40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 1 or 34-38, wherein said subject is a primate.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein said primate is a human.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first viral vector is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, parenteral administration, transdermal administration, topical administration, intraocular administration, intrabronchial administration, intraperitoneal administration, direct injection into cells, tissue, organ or tumor, intravenous administration, subcutaneous administration, and intramuscular administration ~~delivery~~.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method according to any one of claims 34-37, wherein said viral vector is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, parenteral administration, transdermal administration, intrabronchial administration, intraperitoneal administration, direct injection into cells, tissue, organ or tumor, intravenous administration, subcutaeous administration, and intramuscular administration ~~delivery~~.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The method according to any one of claims 1 and 34-37, wherein said agent is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, parenteral administration, transdermal

administration, topical administration, intraocular administration, intrabronchial, intraperitoneal administration, direct injection into cells, tissue, organ or tumor, intravenous administration, subcutaneous administration, and intramuscular administration ~~delivery~~.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 34-37, wherein said viral vector is a replication-defective viral vector.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A method of ~~modulating~~ reducing toxicity associated with expression of a ~~virally encoded~~ transgene-encoded gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to ~~a~~ said subject

(a) a viral vector comprising said transgene, wherein said transgene-encoded gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said transgene to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that ~~modulates~~ reduces uptake of said viral vector by Kupffer cells ~~level or Kupffer cell function in said subject~~;

wherein said agent is administered prior to or concurrently with administration of said viral vector.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The method according to claim 47, wherein said agent is administered prior to administration of ~~a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding a therapeutic gene product~~ said viral vector.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method according to claim 47, wherein said toxicity is hepatotoxicity.

Claim 50 (canceled).

Claim 51 (canceled).

Claim 52 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising

(a) a viral vector, wherein said vector comprises a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding a therapeutic gene product expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter,

(b) an agent that ~~modulates~~ reduces uptake of said viral vector by Kupffer cells ~~function~~, and

(c) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein said viral vector ~~nucleic acid~~ is provided in a viral particle.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and/or second viral vector is a replication-defective viral vector.